



## Long Beach Police Department

# Crime Watch News

Crime Prevention Unit • 100 Long Beach Blvd • Long Beach, CA 90802

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**Karen Owens**  
Administrator  
Community Relations Division

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Sergeant  
Crime Prevention Unit  
Community Relations Division

## COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION MEETING

### Port Security

Wednesday, May 21, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.  
Long Beach Water Department  
1800 East Wardlow Road

The Port of Long Beach has become one of our world's busiest ports. Trade that occurs within this port is vital to our national commerce. Recognizing this fact, the Police Department has developed it's first Boat patrol unit to help ensure both port and homeland security. Come, find out what our officers are doing to protect our vital waterways! Please bring your friends and neighbors!

## Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities

**May 8th**, Thursday, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

### ***Special Olympics Tip-A-Cop Event***

Claim Jumper Restaurant, 6501 E. Pacific Coast Highway

Let our officers be your celebrity host and servers for the evening. All "tips" will be donated to benefit our local Special Olympics Athletes!

**May 17th**, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to completion

### ***West Division Take Back Our Streets Clean-up***

(Call the Community Policing Office, 570-3461, for additional information)

Join other community members and our Community Policing Staff in their efforts to remove trash and graffiti in the West Long Beach area.

**May 17th**, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (Page 2 for further details)

### ***Long Beach Interfaith Prayer Service for Youth***

**June 1st**, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### ***8th Annual CPR Sunday & Health Expo***

Long Beach City College, Liberal Arts Campus, 4901 East Carson Street

Come out and become certified in CPR! Sponsored by the Long Beach Fire Department, the American Red Cross and Long Beach City College

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Events and  
Volunteer Opportunities 1

Youth Violence,  
Early Warning Signs. . . . . 2

Community Forum On  
Youth Violence. . . . . 3

Neighborhood Watch  
Success Stories. . . . . 4

## YOUTH VIOLENCE: EARLY WARNING SIGNS

National SAFE KIDS Week (May 3 - 10)

Dramatic increases in youth violence throughout our nation underscores the need for us to be better informed about significant early warning signs which are often portrayed by our youth. Early identification of high-risk youth and intervention assistance offers the best plan of action to reduce senseless acts of violence.

**What You Should Look For** - There are often early warning signs in most cases of youth violence. Behavioral or emotional signs may be indicative of the potential risk of danger or of a troubled teenager. Generally, behavioral changes and more disruptive acts or statements, call attention to the need for intervention. These signs do not necessarily mean that a violent act will occur, rather that they should alert you to pay more attention to the behavior or actions of these teenagers. Often, a potentially violent teenager will tell a friend about plans to commit a violent act. It is important that you take these threats seriously, especially in today's violent society.

**Carrying a Weapon or Firearm** - Any teenager known or suspected of carrying weapons or firearms should warrant immediate response of authorities and law enforcement. Encourage your children to tell you or their school administrators when they are aware of, or suspect that another child is carrying a weapon or has designed a plan to harm others.

**History of Violence & Disciplinary Problems** - The best indicator of future behavior is that of the past. A child who has a history of behavioral problems and ongoing aggressive behavior poses the need for professional counseling. Unmet emotional needs may present themselves in aggressive attitudes towards peers, defiance of authority, disengagement from school and social problems.

It is very important to have a child seen by a professional counselor if they exhibit continued aggressive or threatening behaviors. These are often signs of a child crying out for help. These pleas warrant your undivided attention.

**Increased Disruptive & Uncontrollable Behavior** - Children that exhibit severe episodes of rage for seemingly minor reasons pose a serious threat of harm to others. Often, these outbursts are associated with increased disruptive behavior in the classroom. This uncontrollable behavior may escalate into severe problems. Most children who exhibit these outbursts in the school setting have also demonstrated their inability to control anger at home. Parents must realize that disruptive behaviors that are allowed and tolerated at home may have significantly different outcomes in a classroom setting. The unchecked and accepted disruptive home behavior may intensify your child's anger when confronted in the classroom and may lead to more aggressive behavior towards others.

**Explicit Details of Violence in Drawings and Written Works** - Children often express their emotions and feelings, without harm, in artwork or writing. One should be alerted and pay special attention to drawings of violence which are directed at other children, family members or school staff. You should also be alerted to repeated expressions of graphic violent themes. Interpretation of such material is sometimes difficult and may require a professional opinion.

(Continued on page 3)

## PRAY FOR PEACE



Clergy, congregations, families, youth, and the entire Long Beach community are invited to

### **The 1st Long Beach Interfaith Prayer Service For**

- Youth and families
- Against gang violence

**Saturday**  
**May 17, 2003**  
**9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

**Grant A.M.E. Church**  
**1129 Alamitos Avenue**

Co-Sponsored by the Long Beach Police Chief's Chaplain Advisory Group

If you have any questions or need further information,

please call

Police Chaplain  
Vincent Negron  
(562) 983-1665

Or

Officer Andre' Booker  
(562) 570-7402



## **VIOLENCE: EARLY WARNING SIGNS**

Continued from page 2

**Severe Fighting and Destruction of Property** - Children engaging in acts of aggressive behavior such as fighting, bullying, hitting, vandalism, threatening, and defiance of authority are at-risk for more serious episodes. Parents are encouraged to seek professional intervention on the part of a counselor before things get out of control.

**Cruelty to Animals and Fire Setting** - Children who seem to enjoy such things as torture and cruelty to animals, setting fires and similar acts pose a serious threat to their peers, school personnel and their families. These behaviors often lead to more violent offenses. Preoccupation with harming animals, fire setting or destruction of property should raise concern for parents.

**Social Withdrawal and Excessive Feelings of Isolation** - Withdrawal and isolation of a student from their peers and social activities may indicate a child is having psychological problems including depression, feelings of rejection, feelings of inadequacy or feelings of persecution. Be attentive to your child's comments, especially those that are critical of others for belittling or making fun of them. A child who is preoccupied or obsessed with revenge against the crude actions of others, may be in heading towards engaging in a violent outrage.

**Poor Academic Performance and Lack of Interest** - Failure to achieve in the classroom may be caused by a number of different reasons. Attention should be paid to drastic performance changes in the child. It doesn't take much effort to realize and observe when your child is exhibiting less than capable school results. Know what's taking place with your child and seek to find the underlining cause of this declining performance. This may require parental involvement and further professional testing.

Poor achievers may begin to demonstrate signs of frustration, acting-out behaviors, feelings of inadequacy, rejection and withdrawal.

**Victims of Violence** - Children who have been victims of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse are at-risk of becoming violent or abusive towards themselves or others. They are in dire need of professional assistance and law enforcement assistance should be called to intervene in any known child abuse.

**Intolerance and Prejudicial Attitudes** - Children who demonstrate an intense prejudice and intolerance toward other children may act upon these feelings through aggressive assaults on those they perceive to be different. These beliefs may be based on race, ethnic, religious, gender, sexual orientation, physical appearance, disability, athletic or academic ability. Intervention is needed to alter a youth's negative perceptions and intolerance of cultural and academic differences.

**Affiliation with Gangs or Cults** - Children who participate in gangs and cults may be strongly influenced by the associated pressures to act out certain aggressive behaviors towards others. Turf battles often result in injuries or even death. A drastic change in musical tastes, the frequenting of hate-based websites, wearing of "gang colors", the display of gang signs and graffiti may signal a need for intervention.

**Early Response as Critical for Intervention** - Early responses to these warning signs are often the most effective actions in preventing situations from escalating. The presence of any of these warning signs does not necessarily mean that a violent act will occur, rather they should alert you to pay greater attention to their behaviors and actions. Children demonstrating radical or abnormal behavior often require more help than you may be able to provide. It is better to err on the side of caution. When continued abnormal behavior is exhibited, it is best to seek professional help for the child.

Source: [www.safetycops.com](http://www.safetycops.com)

## **COMMUNITY FORUM On Youth Violence**



*The Police Chief's  
Latino  
&  
African-American  
Advisory Groups  
invite you to their first  
cooperative effort to  
address youth violence.*

**Thursday  
June 12, 2003**

*Resource Fair  
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Panel Discussion  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.*

*MacArthur Park  
1401 E. Anaheim Street*

**Resource Fair:**  
*LBPD Youth Services  
Neighborhood Watch  
Youth Opportunity Center  
YMCA  
Boys and Girls Club  
Boy Scouts  
Girl Scouts  
Camp Fire USA  
Youth Services Network*

**Panelists Include:**  
*Chief Of Police  
Anthony W. Batts  
Commander Robert Luna  
And  
Select Community Leaders*

*For further information,  
please call  
Police Services Assistant  
Adriana Torres  
at (562) 570-7274 or the  
Community Relations  
Division at  
(562) 570-7215*



## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SUCCESS STORIES

*This is the second article for our new column, "Neighborhood Watch Success Stories." In this month's article, we will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Block Captain Shelley LaReaux's Neighborhood Watch Group! Yes, 25 Years! We want to hear from you too! Let us know what keeps your group active, about your successful crime prevention efforts, about that crook that didn't get away with a crime in your neighborhood! Send your article to the Community Relations Division or e-mail it to [limassa@longbeach.gov](mailto:limassa@longbeach.gov). We'll do our best to include your article in our upcoming issues of "Crime Watch News."*

### Oldest Block Group Active 25 Years and Going Strong!

I started our Neighborhood Watch group in late 1978 and it has been going strong ever since. We joined when the program was called "Community Organized Protection" or "C.O.P." We have at least 4 meetings a year and a potluck or barbeque at least twice a month.

We participated in the NFC (North Facility Center, a.k.a. North Division Substation) Open House in 1985. We ran the ice cream wagon and donated the proceeds to the Long Beach K-9's. Our group also planted a maple tree behind the NFC substation.

Some of our members patrol our area. We have had several vehicles towed that were stolen, abandoned or have had people living in them. We've turned people in for trespassing and for possible drug dealing. If we don't see our neighbors for a day, we check on them, and we watch each other's homes when residents are on vacation. If someone is ill, we do their shopping.

Once a month, I make a reservation at a restaurant and 8 – 22 of us meet there for dinner. We have two neighborhood "pay dinners" and a bake and yard sale every year. The proceeds help us buy burgers, hot dogs and meat for our potlucks.

We collect aluminum cans and plastic bottles for recycling. The money is used for our annual Christmas party, which includes Santa, a gift for everyone, 12 nice door prizes and a potluck. We also go caroling at a nursing home. In the Fall, we have a bake and yard sale, and donate the money to the Long Beach K-9's.

We have been active for twenty-five years and have experienced very little crime during this period. In fact, we've been told that our crime statistics show our neighborhood to be the most crime-free neighborhood in all of Long Beach. We owe our success to keeping our participants active. We also know that two meetings a year are too few gatherings for us to be successful. We make it a point to have as many gatherings as possible to maintain a continued interest. As a result, we're still going strong and are looking for another successful 25 years!

**Shelly LaReaux, Block Captain, Arbor Street - 300 Block Neighborhood Watch Group**

**Long Beach Police Department  
Community Relations Division  
100 Long Beach Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA 90802**